

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

COUNCIL

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

**At the Meeting of the Council of the Borough of Kirklees held at
Council Chamber - Town Hall, Huddersfield on Wednesday 23 April 2025**

PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor Nosheen Dad) in the Chair

COUNCILLORS

Councillor Beverley Addy	Councillor Masood Ahmed
Councillor Munir Ahmed	Councillor Itrat Ali
Councillor Karen Allison	Councillor Bill Armer
Councillor Ali Arshad	Councillor Timothy Bamford
Councillor Donna Bellamy	Councillor Tanisha Bramwell
Councillor Damian Brook	Councillor Cahal Burke
Councillor Aafaq Butt	Councillor Andrew Cooper
Councillor Moses Crook	Councillor Hanifa Darwan
Councillor Paola Antonia Davies	Councillor Eric Firth
Councillor Charles Greaves	Councillor David Hall
Councillor Tyler Hawkins	Councillor Lisa Holmes
Councillor James Homewood	Councillor Zahid Kahut
Councillor Viv Kendrick	Councillor Musarrat Khan
Councillor Jo Lawson	Councillor John Lawson
Councillor Vivien Lees-Hamilton	Councillor Susan Lee-Richards
Councillor David Longstaff	Councillor Gwen Lowe
Councillor Andrew Marchington	Councillor Tony McGrath
Councillor Hannah McKerchar	Councillor Matthew McLoughlin
Councillor Alison Munro	Councillor Darren O'Donovan
Councillor Carole Pattison	Councillor Amanda Pinnock
Councillor Andrew Pinnock	Councillor Kath Pinnock
Councillor Ashleigh Robinson	Councillor Jane Rylah
Councillor Imran Safdar	Councillor Angela Sewell
Councillor Joshua Sheard	Councillor Will Simpson
Councillor Anthony Smith	Councillor Elizabeth Smaje
Councillor Richard Smith	Councillor Mohan Sokhal
Councillor John Taylor	Councillor Mark Thompson
Councillor Graham Turner	Councillor Sheikh Ullah
Councillor Alex Vickers	Councillor Adam Zaman
Councillor Habiban Zaman	

174 Announcements by the Mayor and Chief Executive

The Mayor acknowledged the death of His Holiness Pope Francis and conveyed the thoughts of the Council to the Roman Catholic Church.

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The Mayor advised that, in support of the Forgot Me Not Children's Hospice, she would be donating her hair, and welcomed any donations to her Go Fund Me Page.

175 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Amin, Anwar, Bolt, Daji, Holt, Hussain, McCarthy, Moore and Scott.

176 **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 March 2025 be approved as a correct record.

177 **Declaration of Interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

178 **Petitions (From Members of the Council)**

Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 9, Council received petitions from Councillor Taylor concerning an accident blackspot in Shepley and from Councillor Cooper relating to a change to the Council's governance model.

The Mayor advised that, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9(3), the subject matter of the petitions be referred to the relevant Service Director.

179 **Deputations & Petitions (From Members of the Public)**

Council received a deputation from Clare Walters regarding the enforcement of planning conditions at Laneside Quarry.

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration (Councillor Turner).

180 **Public Question Time**

No questions were asked.

181 **West Yorkshire Combined Authority - Minutes**

The Minutes of West Yorkshire Combined Authority held on 30 January 2025 were received and noted.

182 **Pay Policy Statement 2025/2026 (Reference from Personnel Committee)**

It was moved by Councillor Crook, seconded by Councillor Taylor and

RESOLVED – That the Annual Pay Policy Statement for 2025/2026 be approved, in accordance with the Localism Act 2011.

183 **Written Questions to the Leader, Cabinet Members, Chairs of Committees and Nominated Spokespersons**

Council received the following written questions in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12;

Question from Councillor Vickers

"Is Kirklees Council failing children with SEND needs and their families?"

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A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Education and Communities (Councillor Amanda Pinnock).

Question from Councillor Cooper

“How many grants has Kirklees secured from the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Brownfield Housing Fund?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration (Councillor Graham Turner).

Question from Councillor Robinson

“How will the Council empower local residents to take an active role in shaping their communities, and what support will be in place to ensure their voices are heard?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Education and Communities (Councillor Amanda Pinnock).

Question from Councillor Smith

“What steps is the Council taking to strengthen community cohesion, ensuring that people from different backgrounds feel included and connected within their local area?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Education and Communities (Councillor Amanda Pinnock).

Question from Councillor Burke

“How will the Council ensure that local businesses, voluntary groups, and cultural organisations are supported to contribute to vibrant and thriving communities across Kirklees?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Education and Communities (Councillor Amanda Pinnock).

Question from Councillor Taylor

“Can you tell me how many times the Council would need to fail to collect bins from a street due to access problems (parked cars) before looking at an alternative collection approach?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways (Councillor Munir Ahmed).

Question from Councillor Longstaff

“The Huddersfield Giants are moving to the Shay Halifax for the next few years to play their home games. They would like to build a new stadium in Huddersfield but no location and no planning permission yet sorted. This could result in losing our heritage and another blow to Huddersfield. How does the Cabinet intend to support this local club in securing a suitable location?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration (Councillor Graham Turner).

Question from Councillor Longstaff

“At the February Council meeting you suggested that the large number of shops closing in Huddersfield was natural churn. I received a lot of negative comments from ordinary people about this comment. On reflection have you changed your mind?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration (Councillor Turner).

Question from Councillor Longstaff

“We have all signed on to the Vision Zero Strategy to reduce the number of accidents in Kirklees. Every time I try to adjust speed limits on roads outside schools, I get quoted a Cabinet decision dating back to 2013. Therefore, can the Cabinet have another look at this decision considering Vision Zero?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways (Councillor Munir Ahmed).

Question from Councillor Munro

“Cabinet approved funding for resurfacing Lascelles Hall Rd in February 2023. Due to the economic situation, funding was clawed back. Following complaints about the road surface, the Council recently decided to fill in potholes, however these are indistinguishable as the surface is like one huge patchwork quilt. Does this mean the Council are using the funding for potholes from the Government for roads that desperately need re-surfacing instead and if so, why?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways (Councillor Munir Ahmed).

Question from Councillor Munro

“Why is this Council failing to work with community groups to support them with projects as in the case of Tolson Friends, who have been trying to renew a lease for a new communal hut at the rear of Tolson Museum since 2016, when the Council has now suddenly suggested to both the croquet club and the bowling green club in the Park that leases will be available to negotiate?”

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A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration (Councillor Turner).

Question from Councillor Darwan

“The Council wants to have a full picture of local need for physical activity as it plans services for the future. People in Dewsbury will get the chance to have their say on sport and physical activity in their community this summer. The Cabinet report agreed in 2024 stated that more work was needed to understand what people would want to participate in to help improve their health as well as those activities that would increase wellbeing and social connectedness. A specification will be put out to the market this week to procure a company who will run qualitative and quantitative engagement to gain insights from residents on what activities they want to participate in, to identify what interventions are needed. It is hoped that the project fieldwork will begin mid-May.

How much is this survey going to cost the taxpayer and is there a need for this, especially when the Council have already heard from members of the local communities explain what their needs are regarding physical activities in line with their health and wellbeing and their needs fell on deaf ears, since the Dewsbury Sports Centre closed in 2023 with the centre shutting permanently in 2024?”

A response was provided by the Leader of the Council (Councillor Carole Pattison).

Question from Councillor Munro

“Will the disposal of land known as HS9 in Fenay Bridge result in an undervalue that does not exceed the upper threshold of £2m?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration (Councillor Turner).

Question from Councillor Taylor

“Given the resource constraints, how do you prioritise which pavements to clean?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways (Councillor Munir Ahmed).

Question from Councillor K Pinnock

“What progress has been made in pursuance of the Council budget decision to use this year to draw up a contract of work to do the immediate repairs required to Cleckheaton Town Hall?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration (Councillor Turner).

Question from Councillor Andrew Pinnock

“Can the Cabinet Member for planning and heritage explain why a statutory requirement for planning consent for the removal of Oakenshaw Cross has not been fulfilled?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration (Councillor Turner).

Question from Councillor John Lawson

“A series of FOIs by the Bradford T&A about the future of Oakenshaw Cross has revealed that a critical barrier to the restoration of the Cross is an unresolved dispute between Council services as to responsibility. Is this an example of ‘One Council’?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration (Councillor Turner).

Question from Councillor K Pinnock

“When the Cabinet decided to close Cleckheaton (Spen Valley) Town Hall, ward councillors proposed that the remainder of the £1.5m allocated to the town should be used to do essential repairs. Has this now been agreed?”

A response was provided by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration (Councillor Turner).

Question from Councillor John Lawson

“What assessment has been done to establish the traffic impact on Bradford Road from Oakenshaw to Chain Bar of the addition of a bus lane?”

A response was provided by the Deputy Leader of the Council (Councillor Crook).

Question from Councillor John Lawson

“What is the environmental impact and justification of the removal of many mature trees and hedgerow in order to create a bus lane on Bradford Road Oakenshaw?”

A response was provided by the Deputy Leader of the Council (Councillor Crook)

184

Minutes of Cabinet and Cabinet Committee - Local Issues

Council received the Minutes of (i) Cabinet held on 11 February 2025 and 11 March 2025 and (ii) Cabinet Committee – Local Issues held on 22 January 2025 and 19 February 2025.

185 Holding the Executive to Account

Council received an update from the Leader of the Council regarding the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge prior to oral questions to the Leader and Cabinet Members in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.

186 Local Government Association Corporate Peer Challenge - Kirklees Council Action Plan (Reference from Cabinet)

It was moved by Councillor Pattison, seconded by Councillor Hawkins and

RESOLVED – That the Local Government Association report, Council Action Plan and next steps and timelines be noted.

187 Minutes of Other Committees

Council received the Minutes of (i) Corporate Governance and Audit Committee held on 31 January 2025 and 21 February 2025 (ii) District Wide Planning Committee held on 23 January 2025 (iii) Health and Wellbeing Board held on 16 January 2025 (iv) Licensing and Safety Panel held on 18 December 2024 (v) Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee held on 17 January 2025 (vi) Standards Committee held on 23 October 2024 and (vii) Strategic Planning Committee held on 30 January 2025.

188 Oral Questions to Committee/Sub Committee/Panel Chairs and Nominated Spokespersons of Joint Committees/External Bodies

Council received oral questions in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13(4).

(It was moved by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Armer that under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 16, the submitted Motion to be considered as the next agenda item, be put to the vote without debate, and that the meeting time be extended to enable this. The proposal, upon being put to the vote, was agreed).

189 Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14 as to Protecting Local Democratic Oversight in Planning Decisions

It was moved by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Armer that;

This Council notes that:

- Angela Rayner, the Deputy Prime Minister, has published a Planning and Infrastructure Bill proposing significant changes to the planning system, aimed at liberalising planning rules.
- The Local Government Association (LGA) has raised serious concerns that these reforms could weaken local democratic oversight and reduce the ability of councils to shape development in their areas.
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This Council believes that:

- The proposed changes risk removing councillors from key planning decisions, shifting power to unelected planning officers or central government. This would undermine local democracy and public trust in the planning system.

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- These reforms could lead to inappropriate developments, overriding Local Plans and weakening councils' ability to ensure high-quality, sustainable, and locally appropriate developments.
- There is a real danger that infrastructure and public services will not keep pace with new developments if local oversight is removed, leading to increased pressure on roads, schools, healthcare, and other essential services.
- Weakening council control over planning decisions could also result in greater influence from large developers, reducing community input and the ability to enforce affordable housing requirements or environmental protections.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- Formally oppose the proposed planning changes and request that the Leader of the Council writes to the Deputy Prime Minister outlining these concerns, calling for amendments to safeguard local democratic accountability.
- Publish the letter (website and social media) to raise public awareness of the issue and seek public support for the Council's stance.
- Engage with Town and Parish Councils across the district to gather their views and ensure their concerns are represented in the Council's formal submission to the Government.
- Work with the Local Government Association (LGA) and other local authorities to lobby the Government for protections that retain local councillor involvement in planning decisions.
- Explore alternative mechanisms to ensure councillors can continue to represent their communities and have a meaningful say in planning decisions if these legislative changes proceed.

The Motion, upon being out to the vote, was not carried.

RESOLVED – That the Motion not be approved.